

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets include changes to Figures 2 and 5. In Figure 2, an arrow between Object Type 22 and Object Description has been added and Load 21 has been added. In Figure 5 previously omitted element 48 has been added and Load 45 has also been added.

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. The drawings were objected to for failing to include various reference signs. Corrected replacement drawings are enclosed with this Amendment. The specification has been amended to correct the reference on page 19, line 14 from “output user interface 35” to --output user interface 36--. The specification has also been amended to provide a more descriptive title, correct the typographical error on page 16 and correct the abstract.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. New Claims 13 and 14 have been added.

Claims 1-4, 8, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,021). Claims 5-7, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Smith and Goetz (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,295).

Claim 1, as amended, claims a printing system, comprising: a printer; and a printer control device for retrieving printer-independent print-quality characteristics associated with image elements in a document to be printed by said printer and for associating printer-dependent imaging actions with the printer-independent print-quality characteristics; wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises instructions for indicating a feature of an image element that is to be preserved during rendering without specifying any printer-specific imaging actions needed to achieve the feature; and wherein printer-dependent imaging actions associated with the printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprise specific imaging actions taken by the printer to achieve the feature of the image element to be preserved during rendering.

New Claim 13 depends from Claim 1 and includes the limitation wherein the printer-independent print-quality characteristics comprise at least one of “make sharp edges”, “reduce mottle”, “distinguish neighboring colors”, “reduce moiré”, “distinguish tone and edges”, “maximum tone depth”, “perceptual colors”, “contour”, “no abutting corners”, “increase moiré”, “uniform gloss”, “distinctness” and “compress without loss of detail”.

Smith describes a system which enables a user to identify color objects within a document and to select preferred rendering options for those color objects by object types. Smith associates printer-dependent imaging actions, such as print color control, halftoning and

lightness. Print color control, halftoning and lightness are imaging or rendering actions that depend on the particular printer; they are not printer-independent print-quality characteristics.

Nothing in Smith teaches or suggests printer-independent print-quality characteristics associated with image elements in a document to be printed . . . wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises instructions for indicating a feature of an image element that is to be preserved during rendering without specifying any printer-specific imaging actions needed to achieve the feature. Claim 13 describes some particular printer-independent print-quality characteristics.

Printer-independent print-quality characteristics guide the imaging compromises made by a printer without specifying exact imaging choices such as the use of a particular halftone, color-matching table, black ink treatment, compression, etc. Thus a printer-independent print-quality characteristic expresses a goal ("sharp edges") for an image element which stays the same from printer to printer, but the specific imaging actions taken to achieve the goal may vary from printer to printer and from media to media depending on the printer/media characteristics.

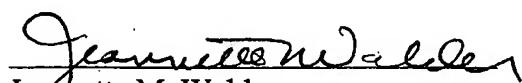
Goertz was cited for teaching a third control for saving associations. Nothing in Goertz teaches or suggests printer-independent print-quality characteristics associated with image elements in a document to be printed . . . wherein a printer-independent print-quality characteristic comprises instructions for indicating a feature of an image element that is to be preserved during rendering without specifying any printer-specific imaging actions needed to achieve the feature.

Claim 8 has been similarly amended. Claim 14 depends from Claim 8 and includes the limitation wherein the printer-independent print-quality characteristics comprise at least one of "make sharp edges", "reduce mottle", "distinguish neighboring colors", "reduce moiré", "distinguish tone and edges", "maximum tone depth", "perceptual colors", "contour", "no abutting corners", "increase moiré", "uniform gloss", "distinctness" and "compress without loss of detail".

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Claims 1-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicant, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,



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Xerox Corporation
Santa Ana, California
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